

CONFIDENTIAL

EYES ONLY

CHIEF *Rw*
 / DEP CH
 CH ENGR
 OPR OFF
 CH ED
 CH RPS
 / ADM OFF
 LIA OFF
 3 EX FILE
BBC file

26 March 1958

25X1

London Bureau, FBIS
 c/o American Embassy
 #1 Grosvenor Square
 London W. 1, England

Dear [redacted]

Subject: Rotation of Chief
 Editors at London Bureau

I appreciate your 19 March 1958 letter on this subject. I have been aware of the feeling you describe in the BBC, and am sure that they would be quite happy if there were no rotation at all among the FBIS people they like.

Due principally to Weiss' solid liaison achievements, continuity at the Chief Editor level now seems to be less needful than it was. These achievements appear to be so well fixed that they could continue just about as effectively under a succession of short tour chief editors, each one of whom can set a tone.

The unfavorable effects on FBIS and BBC personnel mentioned in your letter, I think, can be over-emphasized. Certainly there are offsetting advantages in acquainting a maximum number of our senior editorial personnel with BBC requirements and methods in detail through direct experience at the London Bureau. This particular case in exchanging the chief editors of the two bureaus offers an added advantage in furthering close coordination and understanding between the Mediterranean Bureau and the BBC.

I am, of course, prepared to discuss the matter with John Campbell if he should raise it, and to reconsider if there are truly serious objections. I would, however, much prefer to carry out the original plan and must honestly state that I believe its advantages outweigh its disadvantages from the point of view of overall FBIS-BBC interests.

Sincerely,

[redacted]
 Chief, FBIS

25X1

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EYES ONLY

RGS/amf

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

AMERICAN EMBASSY

LONDON, W. 1.

1 Grosvenor Square

EYES ONLY

19 March 1958⁵⁰ STAT

[redacted], Chief
Foreign Broadcast Information Service
2430 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

STAT

Dear [redacted]

Subj: Rotation of Chief Editors
at London Bureau

I should like to offer some unsolicited comment on the plan for a split tour of duty for Helf and [redacted] at the London Bureau for the period July 1958 to July 1960.

STAT

After two and a half years here I would say without reservation the chief editor is a key figure in local FBIS-BBC operations. He sets the tone, not only in the editorial room but in day-to-day FBIS-BBC working level relations. Therefore continuity in this slot is of utmost importance. Regardless of how well qualified the proposed transferees are, much of the skill required can be developed only by growing into the job---something rather difficult to explain in a letter.

STAT

The proposed plan will afford Helf about 10 months of actual performance, [redacted] about the same length of time, and then a third assignee will take over within a period of 25 months---a rotation which I fear would have unfavorable effects, both on FBIS and BBC personnel.

I am sure John Campbell too is skeptical of the results of the proposed rotation, and he probably will bring up the subject during his forthcoming visit.

Sincerely,

[redacted]
Chief, London Bureau

STAT

1 Grosvenor Square

EYES ONLY

19 March 1958

[redacted] Chief
Foreign Broadcast Information Service
2430 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

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Dear Roger:

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[redacted]
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